

Exhibit A
DRAFT CONCEPT FOR A NEW BUS LANE ORDINANCE

Amended June 27, 2002

SECTION I -- PURPOSE:

This concept language will be used to create a new Bus Lane Ordinance that shall update and replace all the existing bus lane ordinance provisions and City Council Actions except the ordinance(s) related to the Nicollet Mall bus lane.

SECTION II -- DEFINITIONS:

A. BUS LANE TYPES:

Bus lane is any street travel lane designated for exclusive bus use during any time of the day. The bus lane types are listed below.

1. Contra Flow (reverse flow) bus lane created on a street for the sole purpose of allowing buses to travel in a separate lane opposing the direction of the general traffic. (current examples include Marquette Avenue South, 2nd Avenue South, 4th Street South, and Hennepin Avenue)
2. Concurrent Flow (with flow) bus lane created on a street for the sole purpose of allowing buses to travel in a separate lane that is moving in the same direction of the general traffic (current examples include 6th Street South and 3rd Street South and North). In some cases, carpool vehicles are allowed in a concurrent flow lane and in these cases traffic signing will specify whether carpool vehicles are allowed.
3. This ordinance shall not apply to the Nicollet Mall bus lane, which is governed by a separate city ordinance (Title 17, Chapter 439).
4. This ordinance shall not apply to the University of Minnesota Transitway between the Minneapolis and St. Paul Campus. The University of Minnesota governs this facility.

B. BUS LANE USE:

1. Bus lane use is defined as traveling in the bus lane for any length of time or distance. Perpendicular crossing of the bus lane to access a regular travel lane is allowed to/from a driveway or at a street intersection.
2. Other authorized vehicles may be permitted to use the bus lanes pending certain restrictions. The types of authorized vehicles are listed in the Bus Lane Authorized Vehicles Section below.

C. BUS LANE AUTHORIZED VEHICLES:

1. Emergency vehicles, which include marked Police, Sheriff, State Patrol, Fire and ambulance vehicles. These vehicles use of the bus lane shall be restricted to emergency reasons and not for convenience or ease of traveling (such as 4th Street bus lane near the County Jail and City Hall buildings). Use of the bus lane by emergency vehicles shall occur when emergency lights and/or sirens are in.
2. Unmarked emergency vehicles shall not use the bus lane except when emergency lights and/or sirens are in operation or in direct pursuit of a crime. (Note: Unmarked emergency vehicles are perceived as private vehicles. Therefore other motorists misunderstand the use of a bus lane by an unmarked vehicle to be acceptable. This encourages private vehicles, which are prohibited, to use the bus lane.)
3. Marked City of Minneapolis Public Works maintenance and service vehicles use is authorized only to monitor, inspect, or maintain the bus lane in the specific block such as street cleaning and snow removal. These vehicles use of the bus lane shall be restricted to maintenance purposes only and not for convenience or ease of traveling around downtown.
4. Authorized vehicles are public and private Twin Cities Region regular route buses and their marked maintenance and supervisory vehicles. Current regular route transit providers include Anoka County Transit Services, Maple Grove Transit, Metro Mobility, Metro Transit, Minnesota Valley Transit Authority, Northeast Suburban Transit, Plymouth Metrolink, Southwest Metro Transit, University of Minnesota Transit Services, and Valley Transit.
5. Bicycles may use the bus lanes at all times. Bicycles are subject to Section III - Bus Lane Use Limitations cited below.
6. All other private and commercial vehicles are NOT authorized to use bus lanes. This includes:
 - a) Private vehicles (such as automobiles, pickups, vans, SUV, motorcycles, etc.)
 - b) Private street repair and construction vehicles and equipment (These repair vehicles may apply for an existing lane use access permit)
 - c) Electric, gas, telephone, fiber optic, or any other utility vehicles (These utility vehicles may apply for an existing lane use access permit)
 - d) Marked taxicabs with exceptions as noted below
 - e) Limousines
 - f) Marked or unmarked courier vehicles (see Special Bus Lane Access Permit)
 - g) Marked or unmarked delivery trucks (see Special Bus Lane Access Permit)
 - h) Tow Trucks except to tow a vehicle from that bus lane
 - i) School, tour, charter, intrastate, interstate or other buses
 - j) Armored trucks or cars (See Special Bus Lane Access Permit)
 - k) Commercial Permit Vehicles () (see Special Bus Lane Access Permit)

7. Special Permit Vehicles (SPV) are allowed to use the bus lane at a designated times and location(s). (See Special Bus Lane Access Permits below.)

SECTION III -- BUS LANE USE LIMITATIONS:

1. Parking is not allowed at anytime in the bus lane for any reason. Any vehicle left unattended will be subject to ticketing violation and towing. Bus lanes will be signed for No Stopping except for bus stops. Special Bus Lane Access Permit locations will be signed for loading and unloading and will be signed for No Stopping between 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.
2. Buses and emergency vehicles are the ONLY vehicles permitted to use the bus lane 24 hours a day.
3. NO LEFT TURNS from bus lane across on-coming traffic are permitted, except for buses and emergency vehicles.
4. Passing of any vehicle in the bus flow lane is PROHIBITED except:
 - a) By regular route Twin Cities Region regular route transit buses when done in a safe manner so as not to adversely impact the adjacent bicycle or other travel lanes.
 - b) By emergency vehicles when responding to a call with emergency lights and/or siren in operation.

All other vehicles that are authorized to use the bus lane must wait behind buses at bus stops and not pass the bus at anytime.

5. Taxis are only permitted to use the bus lane between the hours of 6:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. Monday through Friday (excluding the following holidays - New Year's Day, Memorial Day, July 4th, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day). Taxis are permitted to use the bus lanes 24 hours on the weekends. Taxis are permitted to stop during these hours to pick up and drop off passengers. Taxis are not permitted to stop or wait longer than 5 minutes for prospective customers and shall only wait at a building's front door that directly abuts the bus lane.
6. Taxis and Special Permit Vehicles at NO time shall use the bus lane as a short cut or through street to other downtown locations. Taxis and Special Permit Vehicles must exit the bus lane at the first legal and available right-turn. Use of the bus lane is therefore limited to the one or two blocks where the drop-off and pick-up is needed followed by the next legal right-turn exit from the bus lane. No left-turns from the bus lane are allowed by taxis or Special Permit Vehicles.

7. Stopping by Special Permit Vehicles is limited to 30 minutes and must occur in the signed location with vehicle's wheels directly adjacent to the street curb to allow regular route buses to pass. Stopping longer than 30 minutes is NOT allowed. No Stopping between 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. will be allowed.
8. Failure to meet any of the above limitations will result in a ticketing violation and/or towing. The ticket violation fee based on this bus lane ordinance shall be \$150.00 and the vehicle may be immediately towed and impounded.
9. All uses of the bus lane are subject to other city ordinances and state statutes as they may apply. All bus lane users must follow the designated bus lane direction of travel. Police, Traffic Control Agents, and Public Works may restrict the use of the bus lane for traffic flow and construction purposes.

SECTION IV -- SPECIAL BUS LANE ACCESS PERMITS:

1. Special Bus Lane Access Permits may be granted to allow Special Permit Vehicles (SPV) to use a bus lane at a designated location(s) and time. If such permit is granted traffic signing will create a special street zone and a special permit decal will be disseminated.
2. A written application request must be submitted to the City of Minneapolis Department of Public Works for their review and approval. The City Engineer, the Director of Transportation and Parking Services or their designee shall review then approve or deny the Special Bus Lane Access Permit at their sole discretion.
3. A permit will only be issued to the property owner or manager of said properties authorizing the use of the bus lane during designated hours. A tenant of the business is not allowed to apply for a permit.
4. An application fee of \$300 shall be submitted with the application. The City of Minneapolis may waive this application fee. An annual fee similar to other downtown loading zones will be invoiced yearly to the applicant.
5. Under no circumstances will a permit be granted for use Monday through Friday between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. or 3:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. Other time restrictions may apply depending on the permit location.
6. An applicant must be a property owner or property management firm that directly abuts the bus lane. The subject property shall have no other access to loading docks, streets or alleys for such purposes of delivery or receipt of merchandise and materials. As part of the application the applicant must demonstrate the above stated access restrictions and gain the City of Minneapolis Public Works Department approval.
7. Special short-term event use (parades, races, etc.) of a bus lane may be permitted subject to review and approval by the City of Minneapolis Public Works.

8. To apply for a permit contact Department of Public Works Transportation & Parking Services to obtain an application, fill out the application providing all required information and fee, and then submit to the City. This application information will be reviewed and verified for approval or denial. Upon approval the applicant will receive a Special Access Permit to be in the bus lane at designated location(s) and time.
9. Use of the bus lane shall not exceed 30 minutes for delivery or receipt of merchandise and materials.
10. Short-term single day permits may granted for weekdays between the hours of 6:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. or weekends to accommodate delivery needs longer than 30 minutes. The application process and fee shall be the same as stated above.
11. Department of Public Works will change the traffic signing to designate the special bus lane access permit locations.
12. All other Bus Lane Use Limitations stated above shall apply to Special Bus Lane Access Permit holders and users.